

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the present application. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly requested.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dempo (US Patent 6,594,267) in view of Okabe (US Patent 6,031,838). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

As argued previously by Applicant, the present claims recite the features of "limiting the number of bits representing VPI/VCI bits from among VPI/VCI bits transmitted in a header of ATM cells to be interpreted according to a number of ATM connections available for processing as indicated in said AAL2 routing lists." Okabe fails to disclose that the limiting of bits representing VPI/VCI bits is performed "according to a number of ATM connections available for processing as indicated in said AAL2 routing lists." While Okabe does use an address translator scheme, whereby the VPI/VCI address is converted into an address having fewer bits and is then translated at the receiving end using a table (column 9, lines 28-43), this also fails to take into consideration the number of ATM connections available.

Applicant adds that Dempo is not prior art to the present application. The effective prior art date of Dempo is June 1, 1999. The present application claims priority to German patent Application DE 199 26 959.9, which was filed on June 14, 1999. Submitted herewith is a 1.131 declaration from the inventors establishing conception and reduction to practice prior to June 1, 1999. For at least these reasons, applicant submits the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

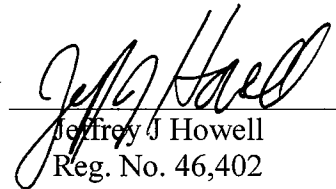
In light of the present amendments and arguments, Applicant respectfully submit that claims 1-5 are allowable. Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance and request a Notice of Allowance be issued.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any additional fees associated with the submission of this Response. Please reference docket number 118744-150.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY



Jeffrey J. Howell
Reg. No. 46,402
Customer No. 29177
Phone: (202) 955-6832

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